

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1288

By Smith

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate Phil Keith upon becoming director of community policing for the United States Department of Justice.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have devoted their careers to serving and protecting their fellow citizens as members of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is former Knoxville Police Chief Phil Keith, who will take over as the new director of community policing for the United States Department of Justice on April 23, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keith will be sworn in as the sixth director of the Justice Department's Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, more than two decades after serving on the task force of police chiefs who called for the agency's creation; and

WHEREAS, the office works with state, local, and tribal police and sheriff's departments across the country on hiring practices, policing strategies, training opportunities, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, Phil Keith has the distinction of being the first Tennessean to serve as the director of COPS; and

WHEREAS, he began his career with the Knoxville Police Department in 1970, serving as police chief from 1988-2004; since his retirement, he has worked with the Amber Alert program and as a consultant with agencies such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Tennessee Police Chiefs Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keith holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from East Tennessee State University and a master's degree in safety administration from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Phil Keith is highly regarded in his profession and in his community; to honor Mr. Keith for his many contributions, an endowment at the University of Tennessee's Law Innovation Center has been named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize this esteemed individual as he begins the latest chapter of his illustrious career in law enforcement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Phil Keith, the newest director of the Justice Department's Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, extending our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.